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ADDRESS,

THE BRETHREN PUB. HOUSE,
ASHLAND, Ashland Co., OHIO.E. L. YODER, - Managing Editor.
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ASHLAND, O., OCT. 21, 1885.

Wise as Serpents and Harmless as Doves.

When Christ was about to send his chosen messengers into the different parts of the country in which he commenced his great work, he knew what opposition they would meet, and what animosity they would arouse, in preaching the acceptable doctrines of the Father in heaven. The comparison he makes is remarkable. His servants were represent as altogether innocent and defenceless and were about to be sent among wolves; and at the commencement of this mission he exhorts them to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

A lesson of practical application can be drawn from this. The Lord desires to have his servants and followers fill the measure of wise and shrewd men; and there is no time in the history of the world, when the serpent-wisdom, such as Christ advised his servants to exercise, was of more utility to the Christian and a greater support to the good profession, than it is at present.

The professor who allows himself to be made the victim of schemers, the pliant tool of wicked men, a ready acceptor of doubtful and suspicious enterprises, a hero-worshiper in the field of politics, casts an unholy influence upon the Church and the Religion of Christ. Christ would have us to be "sharp" men, instead of foolish. He would have us stand aloof from all small, impure things, ready to take care of our own affairs, with knowledge and understanding. The Christian who allows himself to be tangled in the net that "sharps" handle, and to nip at the bait that frauds offer, injures his influence and cripples the majesty of the Christian religion, in the estimation of the outsider.

While the Christian should not be slothful in business, and should be wise and shrewd, yet he is not to use his knowledge to gain an advantage over those who are more unfortunate in that respect than himself.

There is real greatness and real Christianity in abstaining from taking advantage of a fellow-man, when, by penetrating intellect, and superior ability, successful plans are presented to reach that end.

It is a most beneficial exercise to strive to be altogether harmless, and to possess wisdom enough to escape every catch-penny scheme that comes along.

He who is ashamed of his poverty will surely be arrogant of his wealth.

Semi-Editorial.

To idle minds it may suggest itself that brother Bauman and some others and myself are playing a game of

"You tickle me,
And I'll tickle you,"

but sober facts will not justify such a conclusion. It is all dead and painful earnest with me and I know it is so with brother B. and the rest. Even then we cannot express ourselves as we feel it, or make others see things as we see them. But I am glad that an interest is being awakened to some extent at least. Bro. Bauman has caught it well, and it does my soul good to hear the echo of my own heart throbbings in his article in No. 41. Because if brother Bauman had the money as he has the will, I would have the College debt cancelled in twenty-four hours. O that horrible IF! If—there it is again—I could make the willing people rich, and the rich people willing, then the work would soon be done. What perplexes me is that I cannot move the hearts of those who do have means. It shakes my confidence, either in the sanity of my own mind, or the generosity of their hearts. Either I am an enthusiast, or those who could help the work but do not, are remiss. O how dispirited and humbled I have felt after reasoning with, praying with and for a brother for several days in succession, who could give ten thousand dollars just as easily as I can give one hundred, and then am put off with a trifle? I had exhausted my reason and persuasion, and must leave him as if I thought he had done something. If I even so much as intimate that he is illiberal he will indignantly withdraw even the meagre promise which he had given. I have had men to admit the righteousness of my cause, and the reasonableness of my appeals, but still could not get them to contribute. I have had them, Felix like, to tremble and be almost persuaded, but to get them to come fully to themselves so as to say, "I will, let me have the pen," that is the sticking point. But then what is the use writing in this strain through these columns; for if men can not be moved by kind, warm words, inspired by personal associations, how shall they be touched by these dead forms, the impressions of cold lead. However, perhaps some may think of me as the people said of Paul: "His letters are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible," and possibly some may be "stirred up" by these epistles. To that end I pray the Holy Spirit may accompany them.

Then there are many isolated brethren and sisters whom I can not visit, but who are in such circumstances that they can donate toward the payment of the College debt. I do hope they will send to me for blank notes which they will fill in with such amounts as their Christian generosity may dictate and their ability enable them to pay. The amounts are to be paid in three equal annual payments, beginning with the time when it will all be subscribed, which we fondly hope will be on or before the first day of next April. Thus: If you subscribe one hundred dollars you will have thirty-three and

one third dollars to pay on the first day of April, 1886, [provided the whole amount will be subscribed by that time] and in one year from that time the second payment of the same amount, and in two years the last payment of the same amount. How easily this can be done by persons in fair circumstances! An extra animal raised a year and set apart for this purpose will pay it nicely. Brethren and sisters will you not help us? I still need \$7,500. Seventy-five one hundred dollar men will settle it. Or just only seven one thousand dollar donations will pay off the balance! There are more than twice seven men in the church who can give a thousand dollars and still have enough to keep themselves and families comfortably during natural life. Will not some of them respond to this feeble, though earnest appeal? Please do help us.

Then let the hundred dollar men and women respond, and the fifties, and thirties and twenty-fives, and fifteens swell up the column, and we will soon have the amount raised. What a thrill of joy would quiver over the nerves of our oppressed brotherhood if these Semi-Ed's. could be sub-headed "Ashland College Debt Paid!" What new zeal it would inspire! The world would look more cheerful to all of us. Other church enterprises would then receive their wonted attention, and prosperity could be hoped for. When shall that glad day dawn upon us? Brethren and sisters you have the cords in your hands by which you can draw the curtains and let the orb of that day beam upon us. The other ends form your purse strings; let the purses hang, and the strings will untwine, and draw the curtains and let the light shine.

How different it would be if, [I am glad it is only an if] our beloved EVANGELIST must inform its readers, and I will never announce it in these letters, that the College Debt project has proven a failure, the solicitor disheartened and fled to the wilderness, the brave men who have borne it for so long become bankrupt, the faithful, zealous little band of workers at the College dispersed and discouraged, while conservative hordes are clapping their hands for joy and crying after us: "Aha! aha! just as we told you. You can't do anything. You must all come back again!" May the good Lord spare us from such a reality. Let us all work with him to avert it.

Now, what good will this article do? I don't care particularly for personal sympathy or eulogy, except from those who have nothing else to give. From them the tears of sympathy sparkle more brightly than the gold from the coffers of the wealthy. But what I want is help; tangible sympathy; substantial aid; donations; pledges; money! I want those to feel who can give. It seems to me they, too, should have feelings, sympathies, ambitions and enthusiasm which are susceptible of being moved. Kind brethren and sisters will you not please respond?

Brethren have said to me, "O, yes, rather than it shall fail, I will give more; I will double my donation." The time has

now come when it must succeed or fail. It is even now life or death. I am on the "home stretch." If you ever mean to help now is the time. Others have said "I'll pay the last hundred dollars," or the "last fifty dollars." Now is the time when those last hundreds and fifties are needed in order to make up the last seven thousand. Please send for notes and fill them up like big-hearted soldiers, and let us get done with begging.

I had thought, and had gone so far as to talk it to a few, at least, that when this College debt was raised, I would claim to be liberated from all further gratuitous church work, and say now lettest thou thy servant fix up a little home for his wife wherein to spend the days of declining age, for surely have I not done my full share of such toil; but even now already, if I could discern the faint light of the day-dawn which would herald the success of my present mission, I would be willing with brother Bauman to consecrate the residue of my mortal existence to the proclamation of the glad tidings of salvation. I, too, can say, "I love to tell the story," although I have no confidence in my ability to accomplish anything except to encourage and confirm the brethren. I am content to labor in the grace whereunto I seem to have been called. And to this conclusion I will be led by deep convictions of duty only, knowing full well the deprivations it will entail, not only upon myself but upon my family. However, there may be other duties to which the church may think me better fitted, and in which I may be more useful. I am willing to be her servant. But first, foremost and last is the College debt. Nothing can be accomplished until it has been provided for. I await with much anxious concern for responses to this last, long, loud, earnest appeal.

Address me at Ashland whence I will have my mail forwarded to some convenient point. At present I expect to go to Iowa about the 2nd of November, and thence to Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, and then finish Indiana and go eastward.

Hopefully once more.

H. R. HOLSINGER.

Oct. 19.

Homer, Ohio.

It is the same old story of love, good feeling and peace among the members, and a deep interest among the outsiders. On the evening of the 20th, we held our communion. Forty-eight surrounded the table, mostly our own members, and it was indeed a feast to the soul. If there is such a thing as a lovefeast we had it. Bro. Keifer was present and rendered valuable assistance. We had a good congregation and splendid order.

Our meetings are well attended. We preach every two weeks to good congregations; the interest seems to be on the increase. Our Sabbath School is very prosperous. The attendance is good as any country School and the interest is such that we can't close yet for the season; but we must close when the roads get bad. Our weekly prayer meetings are well attended. Every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock we meet in the meeting-house for prayer, not two or

three, but a general turn out of brethren and sisters, and many young people not belonging to Church. Our members love to attend prayer meeting and all, both brethren and sisters, take an active part in the meetings and each one in turn makes a public prayer. This is progressive Christianity. We set our young members to work as soon as they were converted, were not afraid that they would get too fast and run away with the church and perhaps carry with them some of our laurels, but instead of telling them that the younger ought to submit to the Elders we said "where the spirit of Christ is there is liberty," go on brethren, do all you can for the Master, take up the cross and follow Him. Thus we led them and encouraged them, and now there is one that will set us in shame when called upon to pray whether at home or abroad. Lately we held a choice for deacons and with great unanimity selected brethren Milo Atkins and John Hart. They have taken their places and are nobly at work. The church is alive, and the outlook is very promising. Nevertheless it is not all sunshine. We have had, and still have, and may expect to have some clouds, but thank God they were very small ones and were soon scattered. God's favor to us has been great. May it continue, and may the Church of the Brethren prosper everywhere is my earnest prayer.

H. S. JACOBS.

The College.

The Second Fall Term of Ashland College opened last week, with encouraging prospects. Of course, the school is not large, but it promises now to sustain itself this year, which if it does, will be a new era in the history of the institution. The last term was very satisfactory to the students that attended it, and this term promises to be equally so. The institution now offers the greatest advantages to new college students.

A little concert of action and cooperation on the part of those who should be interested, will soon bring the institution to a most prosperous standing.

Where is Bro. McFaden? We expected him to preach for us in L. before this. We are still sheep without a shepherd, SISTERLY.

O, he is out on the war path and after satan. He will get around to Lacock, Pa., in time. Hold the fort a little longer, and he will come in. Ed.

It is claimed that there are twenty million widows in India, most of whom are under twelve years of age, and who by custom are cast out, despised, and not allowed to marry again. What a sanction is in this for woman's foreign missionary societies, particularly in view of the fact that only women can approach these poor social waifs.

As the season for the annual excursion to the Valley of Va., over the B. & O. R. R. is drawing near, and as many persons in the vicinity of Dayton may desire to visit the East this fall, to all such we would say it is to your interest to see the undersigned for information, rates, and tickets from Dayton to Va. over the above road. Tickets on said excursion good from Nov. 24, '85 to Jan. 8, '86, giving parties a good opportunity to visit friends in the East.

WAYNE FROUTZ.
New Lebanon, Ohio.